

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

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R 091836Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6397

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 16075

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, ZA, RH

SUBJECT: BRITISH INFO ON LUSAKA MEETINGS ON RHODESIA

1. ACCORDING TO NORMAN ASPIN, ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY AT FCO, BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS STILL AWAITING REPORT FROM THEIR HIGH COMMISSIONER AT LUSAKA ON THE FAILURE OF THE RECENT NEGOTIATIONS ON RHODESIA. ZAMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MWAANGA TELEPHONED BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER LUSAKA EARLY AFTERNOON DECEMBER 6, AND PROMISED GIVE HIM FULL REPORT ON FOLLOWING DAY. SINCE THEN, BRITISH HAVE HEARD NOTHING FROM ZAMBIANS. ASPIN COMMENTED THAT AT TIME MWAANGA CALLED BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER, ZAMBIANS WERE STILL IN VERY OPTIMISTIC MOOD, EXPECTED PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT WOULD BE CONCLUDED ON DECEMBER 7, LIBERATION LEADERS WOULD RETURN TO ZAMBIA ON DECEMBER 9 AND WOULD BE PERMANENTLY RELEASED ABOUT ONE WEEK LATER. MWAANGA
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WENT AS FAR AS TO SAY THAT BY THE TIME FOREIGN MINISTER

CALLAGHAN VISITS ZAMBIA AT THE END OF DECEMBER, THERE
WOULD BE NOTHING LEFT BUT FOR FINAL AGREEMENT TO BE TIED
UP WITH BRITISH.

2. AS OF LATE P.M. DECEMBER 9, FCO STILL DID NOT KNOW
WHY AFRICANS AT LAST MINUTE INTRODUCED DEMAND FOR IMME-
DIATE RECOGNITION OF MAJORITY RULE. ASPIN, ON PURELY
PERSONAL BASIS, SPECULATED THAT IT MAY HAVE BEEN PRICE
FOR UNIFICATION OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS UNDER ANC OR
PERHAPS WAS MADE AT INSISTENCE OF PRESIDENT NYERERE.
LATTER SPECULATION, ASPIN SAID, BASED ON LETTER NYERERE
WROTE TO FONSEC CALLAGHAN JUST AFTER LABOR GOVERNMENT
TOOK POWER EARLIER IN YEAR IN WHICH NYERERE SAID PRIOR
RECOGNITION OF MAJORITY RULE INDISPENSABLE TO SETTLEMENT
IN RHODESIA. ASPIN CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THIS PURE SPECU-
LATION, AND BRITISH STILL AWAITING EXPLANATION FROM ZAM-
BIANS. HE PROMISED KEEP US INFORMED AS SOON AS WORD
RECEIVED FROM LUSAKA.

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